

ROTHBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1900.



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Rothbury, February 25th, 1901.

TO THE ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Allow me to present you with this, my fifth Annual Report to your Council, and the 24th to the Sanitary Authority.

During the year ended December 31st, 1900, there were registered 115 births, being one more than last year, and is at a rate of 24·0 per 1,000, as against our average of 25·0, while that for England and Wales is 30·0. Of these, 56 were males, and 59 females. They were registered during the first quarter, 29; the second, 36; the third, 23; and the last, 27. The greatest increase was in the Alwinton District, from 14 of last year, to 29 this; whilst Framlington fell off from 15 to 10; Rothbury, 32 to 23; and Whittingham, 22 to 15.

The total deaths registered was 95, but six of these did not belong to the district, coming into it with ill health or for change of air, this leaves 89, which is at a rate of 18·54, being a good deal above our average of 16·0, whilst last year's was only 12·0. That for England and Wales, is about 18·0. Of these, 50 were males, and 39 females. They occurred as follows: from December of

last year, 1; during January, 7; February, 6; March, 4; April, 9; May, 9; June, 9; July, 7; August, 8; September, 7; October 10; November, 9; and December, 4.

As there were 115 births registered, with 89 deaths, the difference of 26, was the number added to the population naturally. This is at a rate of 5·4, as against our average of 9·0, while that for England and Wales is 12·0. This is very low, but is in keeping with most Rural Districts just now.

Out of the 115 Infants born, it appears that 16 died before reaching one year of age, and hence, in Infancy. This is at a rate of 139 per 1,000 born, and is heavy, that for England and Wales being 120.

The ages at which these deaths occurred, were as follows: Under one year, 16; five and under 15, 5; 15 and under 25, 7; 25 and under 65, 24; above, 32. Of these latter, 11 were over 80 years of age; one, a female, being 93.

Under the class of zymotic (or epidemic) diseases, there were 11 deaths. This is at a rate of 2·0 per 1,000, and is heavy for your district, the average being 1·8. That for England and Wales being 2·1. They were caused as follows: By Measles, 2; Scarlet Fever, 3; Whooping Cough, 3; Diphtheria, 2; Enteric Fever, 1.

Other chief causes of death were as follows:—Phthisis (consumption), 10, as against our average of 14, and being at a rate of only 2·0 per 1,000. Other Tubercular Diseases, 4; Cancer, nine; Bronchitis, 3; Pneumonia, 2; Pleurisy, 1; being six for other diseases of the chest, as against our average of 11, and a rate of 1·25. Premature birth caused 4; Heart disease 14, as against the average of 11; Influenza, 1; but this helped to swell the heart; Senile decay which accounted for 14 more. Accidents caused, 2; Suicides, 1; Apoplexy, 4. All other causes, 15.

The following table shows the deaths in each of the districts, with the consequent rate per 1,000 population.

Alnham,	5.—25·0.	Longframlington,	14.—27·0.
Alwinton,	17.—17·0.	Longhorsley,	2.—20·0.
Brinkburn,	4.—25·0.	Netherwitton,	2.—10·0.
Cambo,	3.—16·66.	Rothbury,	28.—21·54.
Elsdon,	6.—17·7.	Whittingham,	11.—13·0

Thus Longframlington heads the black list, with its rate of 27·0; next comes Brinkburn with 25·0 (the same as last year); Whittingham has greatly improved from 21·0 to only 13·0 (our average is 16·0 for Union).

The *Accidents* were due, one to drinking Carbolic Acid by a child in mistake. The other, to exposure to cold in the storm, near Elsdon on February 11.

The *Suicide* was due to Laudanum Poisoning during temporary insanity.

Inquests were held upon these, also a case of Heart Disease, sudden, near Usway Ford, another that perished in the cold near Ewesly, on November 3rd, and one accidentally drowned in the Coquet.

Of the Strangers, the three last mentioned, were such; as also one that died of Heart Disease and Dropsy, one of Tubercular Disease of the bowels, and one of Apoplexy.

There were no cases of overcrowding, and no proceedings taken before the Magistrates.

Measles were imported into the Todley Moor School District on April 15th. It was carried at the May changing of houses into the Brinkburn district, and from these into the Lee and Framlington School Districts. From the Lee Sidings, it was imported into Rothbury District in June. It caused the closing of the three first named schools, the holidays opportunely closing the last. Isolation and disinfection were recommended. A doubtful case occurred at the Hill Head on November 2nd. Two deaths were occasioned by it.

The total number of cases notified to me was 63, of which, Scarlet Fever accounted for 46; Diphtheria, 8; Erysipelas, 6; and Enteric Fever, 3.

Scarlet Fever. There were in all, 46 cases; of which 6 were under, and 40 over 5 years of age, there being 3 deaths. They were distributed in the districts as follows: Rothbury (rural) 19; Whittingham, 2; Alwinton, 7; Cambo, 2; Elsdon, 4; Longframlington, 10; Long Horsley, 1; and Netherwitton, 1. They were notified as follows, during Jany, 10; Feby, 19; March, 6; April, 5; July, 1; August, 4; December, 1. In the main it was a continuation of the outbreak of last year. It was brought to *Whitton* (Rothbury) on January 3rd from Lorbottle; and probably from the same place to *Hepple* about January 29th. From this latter place, owing to an entertainment, in large measure, it spread over that school district, and

into the *Elsdon* district. From the *Crag End* (Rothbury) it was carried into *Longframlington* district on February 9th. It broke out at *High Farnham* on January 14th in the *Alwinton* district. A quite different outbreak occurred at *Hartington Hall* and *Low Fernley*, January 12th; this was most probably carried by a hawker. At the *East Raw*, it appeared on August 17th; the mother had been away visiting, and is believed to have brought it there. In the *Hepple* district it was the only place where the Schools needed to be closed. All houses were visited by me, and precautions (printed and verbal) given to isolate and disinfect. Unsanitary conditions were reported to the Board; many of them were rectified, but others mentioned further on remain. Your Board is now very judiciously supplying disinfectants.

Whooping Cough was imported into *Elsdon* in April, necessitating the closure of the Schools. It was imported into Rothbury by visitors in July. The holidays fortunately soon closed the Schools. It spread to Thropton in November. In all it caused 3 deaths.

Diphtheria. There were 8 cases notified, with 2 deaths. The first was on March 4th at Callaly (Whittingham); it was mild. The downspout of house being in direct communication with drain, was disconnected. The next were two children in the Brinkburn district—one on March 20th at Healy Cote, the other on March 29th at Jackson's Style. The child at Healy Cote died, although the anti-diphtheria serum was used; the other recovered. Unsanitary conditions were rectified, isolation and disinfection being enforced. It did not spread. It occurred on November 22nd at *Rothley Middle Shiel* in a young man aged 30 years. He was twice given the serum injection, but without avail, as he died on November 30th. Cold was the only cause that could be assigned. The rest of the family were injected and removed into an empty house next door, thanks to the kind leave of Mr. Coxon. Sir George Trevelyan kindly found the serum. The mother who stayed behind (and with the Camborne nurse attended to him), took it slightly. All the rest escaped. Isolation and disinfection were carried strictly out. A faulty ash-midden is reported. It occurred in a very mild form indeed at *Harbottle*, in a mother and daughter, on December 1st. Isolation and disinfection were enjoined. There were no insanitary conditions.

Enteric (Typhoid) Fever. Three cases were reported, all in the *Whittingham* district, and quite distinct, causing

one death at the Tower. This was the first case, and began about June 10; she was aged 30 years. Disinfectants and isolation being used, no further case occurred there. There was a sink and drain from it in a cupboard beside the room; this opened directly into a stone conduit. It was all removed, and, doubtless, caused it.

The second case, in a female, aged 25, occurred at *Whittingham Lane* on July 26th. She had been from home shortly before, and is believed to have contracted it while away. Isolation and disinfectants were used, and no other cases occurred; she recovered. The well here was protected from surface contamination, and improved. A proper sanitary sink was provided for defective one; other sanitary needs are to be provided. The third was Dr Watson's daughter, aged 21 years, who took it on October 4th and recovered. This was in *Whittingham village*. Unsanitary conditions were rectified, and others are being attended to. An old drain under the house was removed. Disinfectants and isolation were used, and it did not spread.

Erysipelas. Six cases were notified, all recovering. Two were in houses where scarlet fever had previously been imported. One followed an injury to the leg; here unsanitary conditions were rectified. At *Longframlington* a defective rainspout existed.

The Glanton Sewage. The ordinary flow has now been taken away from the roadside, and a carefully considered arrangement constructed to purify it, before entering your district. It remains to be seen how this will answer.

No depot has yet been obtained for the deposit of the *Thropton* ashes and rubbish, these being still deposited on the banks of the *Wreigh*. At *Woodhall* drainage is still needed. The *Snitter* sewage, under your Inspector's directions, has now been deviated from the roadside gutter—removing a very unsanitary state of affairs. The same at *High Trewhitt* has been effected in a less degree. At *Harbottle*, the same condition is in hand. At *Jackson's Style* a proper sink and drain has been provided. At *Butterknowes* the water supply has been improved, but is not yet satisfactory. At *Bull Bush* unsanitary conditions still remain. At *Netherton Buildings* the water supply has been improved, but a better one is about to be provided. At *Great Ryle* the water supply still needs better protection. Sanitary sinks and drains

have been provided for the houses, as well as for the pig-styes and cow-byres. Four new privies and 2 ash middens, and 2 old open ones, covered in.

At *High Farnham* unsanitary conditions still exist as reported previously. *Hartington Hall*, the same. At *Harwood* a well is being sunk in the hope of finding a good water supply. At *Low Fernley* a privy and ash-midden have been provided. At *Hepple*, several unsanitary sinks have been removed, and proper ones provided, At *Caistron* the *Farm-house* needs a proper sanitary drain and sink, as do also the three cottages and School-house. This latter needs all outbuildings, and a new covered-in ash midden to the cottages. The *South Farm* here is in like condition, but it has lately changed ownership, and entire reconstruction is intended. At *Warton* the drain has been unblocked, and a part of it relaid. At *Trewhitt Steeds*, the same. At *Snitter Farm*, the scullery sink was cut off from its direct communication with the drain. This was an old stone conduit, and blocked up. It was taken up, and a proper sanitary one laid down. The water supply to this village has taken up a deal of your Inspector's time. Plans for a renewal have been submitted to the Local Government Board, and are awaiting its sanction. At *Ritton White House*, there have now been built 22 iron and wood houses for workmen. Out offices have been provided, and drainage with sinks is being laid down. *Coatwalls*, sanitary sinks and drains provided, also privies and ash middens. *Netherton Mill*, the house much improved, and drainage being attended to. At *Screnwood* the old blocked drain has been taken up, and a proper sanitary one laid down instead. *Windy-side*, steps are being taken to improve the faulty and precarious water supply, and to provide the old cottages with privies and ash middens. At *East Raw* the drainage has been improved, but the open ash middens need covering in, and the privy roofs turned out of them. At *Rothley East Shield*, proper sinks have been provided, and the houses spouted. At the *Hill Head* outbuildings are needed for the cottage, the pig-stye removed from its walls, together with sinks and drain for it and the farm-house.

Accompanied by your Inspector, special inspections were made of Whittingham, Elsdon, and Longframlington. As a result, 22 notices were served upon tenants to abate nuisances, which were complied with. Structural defects had been remedied, while others caused notices to be served upon the owners as follows :

(1) *Whittingham*, *Miller's* house that was closed by the Board's order, is now re-built, and proper sanitary requirements furnished. The *Tower*, a dangerous sink has been removed, but the open ash-midden, with the privy roof draining into it, needs this turned out and covering in. *Dr. Watson's*, the old stone conduit under the house has been removed, and new drain laid outside. The rain down spout has been disconnected. Drainage and sinks provided for the Stable and Cow Byre, and improvements (much needed) in the outbuildings and yard, are in process of construction. *Elliott* and *Battenby* to have the ash-middens covered in, and privy roofs turned out of them they are also too deep. *Mrs. Johnson's*, the same. Proper sinks have been placed at the rear of the houses of *Southern*, *Gibb*, *Hunter*, &c., and the unsanitary ones at roadside removed. The drainage at the *Shools* has been re-laid. Spouting is deficient at *A. Hunter's* and *Mrs. Wightman*.

(2). *Elsdon*, Spouting has been put up at the *Inn*, at *Potts'* and *Bryden's*, the open ash-midden has been covered in. *Mr. R. Keith* requires spouting, and proper outbuildings, these are in hand. *Mrs. Hall's* require down spout for rain water. *Mr. Binks'* house requires drainage. The *Schools* are in anything but a sanitary condition. The Manager's attention has been called to the same.

(3). *Longframlington*. The *Farm Cottages* have been provided with proper out offices, spouting and drainage. *Robt. Young* and *W. Barrie* have provided drainage for outbuildings. *J. Appleby* has opened out the blocked drain. At the *Villa*, drainage and spouting are in hand. The spouting is broken at *Mrs. Galls*, also *T. Straughan*, *Robson*, and *Hume*. *J. Anderson* needed at back with *R. Young*. Down spouts need to be connected with drains at *W. Hislop*, *H. Bell*, and *Stennings*.

Proper privy and ash-midden have been provided at the *Inn* (*Hopper* and *Anderson's*).

Owing to the closing of the Colliery (temporary), nine of the houses were unoccupied. The Water Supply and Sewers seem all satisfactory.

Your Board appointed a Committee to draw up building byelaws for the Union. They met twice, and I attended the meetings with your Inspector. These now await the approval of the Local Government Board, having been accepted by your own. No cases have gone to the Isolation Hospital this year from your district.

This has been kindly painted at the expense of Mr. Watson-Armstrong, looking much better for the same.

From your Inspector's report I find that, including those above, he has served 31 Informal Notices, 30 Legal, and nine Final ones. He has also sent out 83 letters calling the attention of owners and occupiers to existing nuisances. There have been 47 nuisances abated, 117 still existing. Also 19 stone or brick privies, and 14 ash-pits have been provided, and four open ash-pits covered in.

I am indebted to Mr. Bertram, of Cragside, for the following table of rainfall, &c., during the year, 1900.

MONTHS.		INCHES.
January	...	5·15.
February	...	7·57.
March	...	3·06.
April	...	1·62.
May	...	1·53.
June	...	4·03.
July	...	1·64.
August	...	4·79.
September	...	1·01.
October	...	6·05.
November	...	5·07.
December	...	2·66.
Total		43·98 inches.

This is about 10 inches above our average. It was a wet year, there being 199 wet days. The hours of sunshine were 1,338.

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS in the Rothbury
(Rural) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1890.	4891									
1891.										
1892.										
1893.										
1894.										
1895.										
Created in 1896.										
1896.	4800	131	27·29	10	76·33	79	16·45	2	81	16·87
1897.	4790	112	23·0	14	125·0	53	9·0	3	56	11·69
1898.	4780	115	24·0	11	95·65	87	18·20	1	88	18·41
1899.	4800	114	23·8	10	88·0	59	12·06	1	60	12·26
Averages for years 1896-99.	4815	118	24·52	11	96·24	69	13·92	2	71	14·88
1900.	4800	115	24·0	16	139·1	89	18·54	6	95	19·79

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).....166,959
Total Population at all ages at Census of 1891 4,896
Number of inhabited houses 1,019
Average number of people per house 4·8

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH during Year 1900 in the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.						Deaths in Localities (at all ages).										
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Rothbury.	Whittingham.	Alwinton.	Long Fraulington.	Elsdon.	Alnham.	Brinkburn.	Cambo.	Long Horsley.	Netherwitton.
Measles ..	2	1				1		1		1							
Scarlet fever ..	3			1		1		3									
Whooping-cough ..	3	2				1		2				1					
Diphtheria and Mem- braneous Croup..	2				1	1								1		1	
Enteric fever ..	1					1			1								
Epidemic influenza	1						1										
Enteritis ..	3	3			2	7		1	2	4	1		1		1	1	
Phthisis ..	10			1				1									1
Other tubercular diseases ..	4		1	2	1			1			2			1			
Bronchitis ..	3	1								1							
Pneumonia ..	2					1	1		1	1					1		
Pleurisy ..	1						1	1									
Premature birth	4	4						1	1	1		1	2				
Heart diseases	14					5	9	7			3	1					
Accidents ..	2			1		1		1			1	1					
Suicides ..	1					1		1		4	3						
Senile decay	14						14							2		1	
Apoplexy ..	4	5	1		2	5	4	3	2	1	4	2	2				
All other causes ..	85						2	1									
All causes ..	159	16	5	7	5	24	32	27	11	15	14	6	5	4	3	2	2

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the Year 1900 in the Rothbury Rural District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.						Total Cases notified in each Locality.										
	At all ages,	At Ages—Years.						Rothbury.	Whittingham.	Alwinton.	Long Framlington.	Alnham.	Brinkburn.	Cambo.	Elsdon.	Long Horsley.	Netherwitton.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards										
Diphtheria ..	8			3	1	4		2	2	1			2	2			1
Erysipelas ..	6				1	4	1	1								1	1
Scarlet fever ..	46		6	32	7	1		7	2	10				2	4		
Enteric fever ..	3				1	2			3								
Totals ..	63		6	35	10	11	1	9	8	11		2	4	4	1		2

